

For immediate release

Extraordinarily Recyclable: Koehler Paper Flexible Packaging Paper Wins 2025 PAP'AWARD

- **“Koehler NexPlus® Seal Pure” packaging paper wins in the Circular Economy category**
- **Even more sustainable all around: new paper packaging design with window**
- **Recycling conserves resources**

Oberkirch, 04/15/2025 – “Koehler NexPlus® Seal Pure” flexible packaging paper from Koehler Paper, a Koehler Group company, was awarded a 2025 PAP'AWARD in the Circular Economy category at the “La Nuit du Papier” event in Paris in April. This was the third time that the event has taken place, and the use case that led to the award for the heat-sealable packaging paper consisted of French cooperative “Coopenoix” packing organic walnuts in a 500 g paper bag for the first time ever. The unique bit about the packaging? A sheer linen mesh window that replaces plastic windows and meshes. The bag, which combines outstanding strength with the aforementioned see-through feature, was processed by French converter Multisac.

Innovative packaging design bets on renewable raw materials and recyclability

“Like all other Koehler NexPlus® paper offerings, ‘Koehler NexPlus® Seal Pure’ is also heat-sealable, and its strength properties make it ideally suited for further processing on all standard packaging machines. To put it another way, the material’s micro and macroperforation, as well as the window’s processing, were a piece of cake,” explains Bettina Bastien, Business Development / Brand Owner manager for flexible packaging paper at Koehler Paper. “This award honors the commitment to innovation and the development of efficient and sustainable paper solutions for which Koehler Paper is known.”

“Koehler NexPlus® Seal Pure” can be used as secondary and primary packaging, provided that no additional barrier properties are required. The packaging paper has been engineered in such a way as to be very easy to recycle, making it perfect for recycled paper. Moreover, its carbon footprint is significantly smaller than that of conventional plastic packaging. Additionally, the existence of an extraordinary recycling stream for paper means that the packaging paper is also an ideal choice for sustainable circular economy practices.

“La Nuit du Papier” is one of the most important events of the French labels and packaging industry, and all large French packaging companies take part accordingly. The awards honored successful examples of sustainable printing and packaging in a variety of categories, including Circular Economy for Food and Cosmetic Packaging, Printing and Processing, and Sustainability.

Sustainable packaging: Innovative Paper Solutions with “NexFlex®” from Koehler Paper

The research and development team from Koehler Innovation & Technology worked with the experts from Koehler Paper to develop the NexFlex® product range, a unique and recyclable generation of flexible packaging paper. The aim here is to replace plastic in packaging by using so-called barrier paper wherever possible. The range covers a broad spectrum: It includes standard coated and uncoated paper used in laminates for pouches, sachets, and other applications, making them suitable for a wide range of packaging for food and non-food products. The next generation of paper for flexible packaging are sustainable barrier paper with functional surfaces for product-specific protection (Koehler NexPlus®). The NexFlex® product family also includes paper coated on one side with good dimensional stability and high smoothness (Koehler NexCoat®), as well as uncoated paper with a natural appearance (Koehler NexPure®). Various flexible packaging paper from Koehler Paper were awarded the “Made for Recycling” seal by the environmental service provider Interzero.



Figure: Koehler Paper flexible packaging paper makes a compelling case as a result of being heat-sealable and extremely stable, making it the perfect choice for processing into bags with windows. Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With Koehler NexPlus® Seal Pure, the Koehler Group is helping to achieve sustainable development goals in the area of successful future-proof products and services.

Koehler Paper SE

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About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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